

NBC BRIEFING

23 April 1958

INDONESIA

I. After government forces landed near Padang 17 April and occupied city same day, they immediately moved toward dissident capital at Bukittinggi.

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A. Landings were carried out with little resistance,

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B. Dissidents could have taken advantage of government's considerable difficulties in approaching beach through high surf.

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II. Fall of Bukittinggi appears imminent.

A. Government troops have reached Lubukalung on road northward from Padang.

B. On road eastward from Padang, Djakarta forces have advanced to Lubuksulasih.

III. Government's other overland moves toward Bukittinggi--two from east across mountains and one from north through Tapanuli--are continuing.

A. From east forces have taken Muara Mahat and Sidjundjung.

B. Drive through Tapanuli has been rapid, although pockets of dissidents have been left behind.

1. Djakarta troops have reached important road junction at Padang Sidempuan.

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IV. Dissident resistance is virtually non-existent.

A. In addition to their weak and disorganized defense of Padang,

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[redacted] military leader Lt. Col. Hussein appears to be making little effort to regroup and rally a defense, and is depressed over his defeat at Padang.

B. Hussein has said his greatest concern is that his troops cannot defend themselves against government air attacks which apparently have been decisive factor in whole campaign.

C. Hussein claims still to have 5,000 troops, including irregulars, under his command, and has capability for guerrilla warfare sufficient to prevent central government from consolidating control over area if he can get his troops to continue fighting.

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D. [redacted] Col. Simbelon and other dissident leaders in area south of Solek are interested only in putting distance between themselves and enemy.

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VI. Government build-up for drive on North Celebes continues.

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~~C, E~~ Government troops fanning out from area occupied early in April around towns of Denggala and Palu.

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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